

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 10th January 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

21. The *Bengalee* wonders whether the announcement by the *Pioneer* of the Amir of Afghanistan's infatuation for his new wife, whose father has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Afghan forces, is a repetition of the tactics so common with Anglo-Indian journals and followed in the case of poor king Theebaw of Burma. Prior to the annexation of Burma, mysterious telegrams suddenly appeared in English papers, informing the British public that "King Theebaw is drinking." These messages, with variations, continued to make their appearance and then—well, then, followed the fall of Mandalay and the deposition and deportation of its monarch.

BENGALIE,
30th Dec. 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

22. The *Bengalee*, writing again on the question of the reasonable proportion of Europeans and Indians to be employed in the higher ranks of the Police Service, would insist on at least two-thirds of the entire number of appointments to be made annually being recruited in this country—one-third by open competition upon the results of the Provincial Civil Service Examination, and one-third by promotion from the rank of Inspectors,—and the remaining one-third will be left to be recruited in England upon the results of the Indian Civil Service Examination.

BENGALIE,
30th Dec. 1902.

It is, however, against the principle of laying down any such limit as the foregoing, and would rather dispense with all restrictions and prohibitions and leave Europeans and Indians alike to try their own chance, with the methods indicated, upon equal terms, and see which of them succeed in the race. This would ensure the admissions of a certain proportion of Europeans, though limited, which is what is required. The Indian element could then, as it should, predominate, and once this result is attained, the force will have ceased to be inefficient and corrupt.

23. To the *Bengalee* it would seem that the Commission are not for abolishing the chaukidari tax, but are seeking for materials to readjust its incidence by associating it with the ownership or possession of land, and thus to thrust upon the land-owning classes the principal share of the burden. If this is the case, then, suggests the journal, the public should make a firm stand against any such attempt. Why should one section of the village community pay for services supposed to be rendered to that community in general? Then, as the Rural Police do not, as a matter of fact, serve the village at all, and are the servants of the Government, the latter should bear the cost of their maintenance, and not share it with any section of the community.

BENGALIE,
1st Jan. 1903.

24. The *Hindoo Patriot* complains that there is no sitting accommodation in the Courts of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, for legal practitioners or for the parties they represent, and trusts that this want will be supplied now that attention has been invited to it.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
1st Jan. 1903.

25. The same paper, in a later issue, states that Mr. Howard, the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, has taken notice of its recent complaint of the absence of seating accommodation in the Courts of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, and has ordered the erection of benches, &c. Mr. Howard, it says, has given great satisfaction in the discharge of his duties and has abundantly demonstrated that the posts of the Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner ought not to be held by any other than trained Civilians. This is a matter for the serious consideration of the authorities whatever the recommendations of the Police Commission may be.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th Jan. 1903.

BENGAL, 6th Jan. 1903.

26. The *Bengalee* enumerates the following grounds which give rise to a feeling of dread among zamindars:—

The Police Commission. The zamindars' fears.

(1) As proprietor of the *khas mahal* estates, the Government and the zamindars stand on the same footing as landlords, who both receive rents from the raiyats, whose interests they are equally bound to protect and promote—why then should the one enjoy exemption from all liability to contribute towards the maintenance of the Rural Police, while the other should be saddled with it in proportion to the value of, or income derived from, their revenue paying estates?

(2) From the drift of the questions put to witnesses, it would appear that the Commission are in favour of recommending that the zamindar be held responsible for the conduct of his agents. The existing law provides more than ample safeguards against the zamindar, or his local agents indulging in the dangerous pastime of either committing, inciting or fomenting riots, but it is feared that the Commission will recommend that these hard provisions of the law be supplemented with still harder measures.

(3) The next ground for dissatisfaction and fear is that the District Magistrate, who is the head of the Police, is also the District Collector.

(4) The Police Commission might not make the village police subordinate to the Village Unions, as recommended by several witnesses, but uphold the village police as an arm of the Regular police, and the only change that they would introduce in the existing order of things is to readjust the tax, so as to make the burden press more heavily upon the owners and occupiers of land.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 30th Dec. 1902.

27. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Giridih correspondent complains that

Mr. Dentith, Subdivisional Officer of Giridih.

lately, Mr. Dentith punished a witness, who was deposing before him and who was not prompt with his replies, by having his blanket removed. The man gave the rest of his deposition shivering with cold. The Subdivisional Officer is also alleged to attend Court very irregularly. He sits for an hour or so during the day, then returns to his bungalow, and coming to Court again in the evening, sits till late at night. For people having business in his Court, this is felt to be most unpleasant in this cold weather.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 3rd Jan. 1903.

28. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* furnishes another case of executive

Executive interference with judicial independence.

interference with judicial independence to show how necessary it is for the judicial and executive functions to be separated.

It would appear that one Probhat Chander, a zamindar of Dacca, was implicated in a compoundable case, but the complainant having compromised the case, petitioned the Magistrate to that effect. The Deputy Magistrate accepted the compromise and issued orders accordingly. The District Magistrate, however, ordered Probhat's prosecution for "wilful disobedience of summons," but this charge, too, was dismissed. The Magistrate next ordered a further enquiry into the original charge, and this time the Deputy Magistrate, who had previously acquitted him, convicted him, but before doing so, informed Probhat's pleader that the Magistrate had ordered that he was not to pass any final orders before seeing him. This order of the Magistrate forms part of the record of the case.

(d)—Education.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 29th Dec. 1902.

29. The *Hindoo Patriot* hears that the Syndicate of the Calcutta

The Syndicate of the Calcutta University.

University has received a confidential communication from Government asking, among other things, if geography ought not to be included in the B.A. Examination. If this is true, it hopes that the Syndicate will refer the question to the University before replying in its name, and thus show that it will not repeat or be party to the slight which the Government has thought fit to put upon the University.

(e)—Local-Self Government and Municipal Administration.

30. The *Hindoo Patriot* has the following complaint:—

Calcutta street lighting.

The city lighting is again very bad and several lamps are left unlit every night and some but help in making darkness visible. The mantle question was expected to have been satisfactorily solved: but it has not been solved as a matter of fact, and the incandescent system appears to be meteoric in more than one sense. The old system, if humbler, was more satisfactory, because it was steady, and it may after all be a real improvement to revert to it.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th Jan. 1903.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

31. With reference to the sanction accorded by the Secretary of State

The Ranaghat-Murshidabad line.

to the opening of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* brings to light the following facts connected with this line, which, under the name of the Ranaghat-Bhagwangola Railway, was projected, it says, by Sir R. Temple nearly 26 years ago. It was then that 20 miles of land were actually acquired and the earthwork finished at a cost of something like 6 lakhs of rupees, and this line, it was decided, should pass through Santipore, the most populous and industrial town of Nadia. Now, however, for reasons which are unknown, the old alignment is to be abandoned, and the new railway is not to run through Santipore, which will be left at a distance of 8 miles from the nearest railway station, thus inconveniencing not only the people of that town, but other important towns and villages.

The *Patrika* calls for a sifting enquiry into the matter, with a view to the real cause of this extraordinary action being discovered and a great loss to Government being averted.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th Dec. 1902.

32. The *Hindoo Patriot* advises the Municipal Commissioners of

The Howrah Tramways.

Howrah, when settling the question of the opening of the Tramway service in that town, to see that the Company receiving the concession, grants transfer tickets between Howrah and Calcutta and guarantees the satisfactory running of cars.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st Dec. 1902.

33. The *Bengalee* hopes that, before the Howrah Tramways scheme will

Ibid.

receive the final sanction of the Commissioners, the Company will give an undertaking to introduce transfer tickets between the Howrah and Calcutta Tramways. Otherwise the scheme will be of no practical benefit.

BENGALIE,
1st Jan. 1903.

34. The *Hindoo Patriot* has an appreciative article on the administration

The Postal Department.

of the Indian Post Office under Sir Arthur Fanshawe.

It testifies to the Director-General's kindness and sympathy towards his Indian subordinates and to the latter's reciprocation, by which the Postal has been made the best Department under the Government.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th Jan. 1903.

(h)—General.

35. The *East* (Dacca) defends the Viceroy's Darbar policy from the

The Anglo-Bengali Calcutta dailies and the Darbar.

attacks of the Anglo-Bengali Calcutta dailies and justifies the scale of magnificence on which it is proposed to hold it, as befitting the great occasion.

As to the absence of religious ceremonies in connexion with the Darbar, which the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* affects to deplore, the *East* does not see how the authorities could safely introduce them in India amidst people of diverse creeds.

The attitude of the newspapers in question betrays, says the Dacca weekly, the gratification of a personal grudge against Lord Curzon and feelings against the Government which should not have been evinced on such an important occasion as the Emperor's Coronation.

EAST
27th Dec. 1902.

36. The *Indian Nation* is afraid that a great disappointment is in store

The Darbar and the people.

for those who hope and believe that the Coronation Darbar will be signalised by the bestowal of some national boon.

INDIAN NATION,
29th Dec. 1902.

Lord Curzon will make one of his best efforts, and he may cast into the shade his predecessor of twenty-six years back. But of what avail to the people will be the mere rhetoric of a ruler? They stand on the tip-toe of expectation. As orientals they look to the Sovereign for gifts and graces on his Coronation day. And great will be their disappointment if they fail to receive favours worthy of the ruler of the wealthiest and mightiest empire in the world. No concession to individuals or classes will be satisfying. It should be a boon to the nation, that is, to all the peoples.

The *Nation* has no desire to make a specific suggestion. It has said that the Queen's Proclamation is not likely to be surpassed in magnanimity. So it will be glad indeed if it is re-affirmed, not merely formally, but with a fixed resolution to carry it into practice. Many are the lapses that have taken place from the principles declared in that document, and there would be reason for congratulation if the ground lost were restored and an assurance given that never again would the principles be departed from.

BENGALER,
30th Dec. 1902.

37. The *Bengalee* states that the Darbar officials were angry at the Nizam of Hyderabad's insistence on having the usual red cloth laid on the Delhi railway station platform before he alighted from his carriage, remarking that His Highness might have imitated the example of Lord Kitchener and walked off without making any such fuss.

People, it says, are wondering whether the obligation to imitate the example of Lord Kitchener rests with the Nizam and the other Indian Princes alone, and whether it may not be more profitably followed by even a higher personage than Lord Kitchener. The Gaekwar of Baroda's failure to take part in the procession has also, it says, made many a gossiping tongue whisper various explanations. "That the Gaekwar's Ahmedabad speech was virtually a most severe and weighty indictment against the British authorities for their neglect of the industrial question in India, of course, goes without saying. *Quidnuncs* have it that a hint has been conveyed to His Highness the Gaekwar as to the impression which his far too outspoken utterances have created in the highest quarters, and that His Highness is at the present moment anything but a *persona grata* with the powers-that-be. Of course, these are mere rumours, and they must be taken simply as rumours and nothing more."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Jan. 1903.

38. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regards His Excellency's speech, at the opening of the Arts Exhibition at Delhi, as a proof of his love for India. Lord Curzon's appeal to the Indians to encourage Indian arts, which indirectly meant that India should combine to keep out, as far as possible, all foreign manufactures from this country, showed that he sought the interests of India against those of his own country. This ought to be the attitude of every British official who has eaten the salt of India. Lord Curzon's speech brings hope and life to the people.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
1st Jan. 1902.

39. The *Hindoo Patriot* is afraid that the Viceroy's speech on the opening of the Delhi Arts Exhibition will be considered disappointing. Read between the lines it is really a condemnation of cheap Italian, French, Austrian, and German manufactures, and if Tottenham Court Road furniture was referred to incidentally, it was by way of balancing the sentence. "Wake up, John Bull!" may not be the Viceroy's motto for the time being, but John Bull is wise in his day, or at least if he is, continental articles must make room for British products in the Indian market.

BENGALER,
1st Jan. 1903.

40. Commenting on His Excellency's speech, at the opening of the Delhi Arts Exhibition, the *Bengalee* remarks that it is just those economic conditions that the Viceroy noticed at work in India which is driving the Indian art-work into a corner. To appeal to the Princes, aristocracy, and nobles of the country would be but an appeal to the few compared with the majority, who, in view of their straitened purses, must invest in cheap articles of foreign production.

While administering a rebuke to the Princes, the *Bengalee* asks, what has Lord Curzon done to revive the industries in British India? Can the weaver of Santipore and Dacca or the potters of Krishnagore claim State patronages

If His Excellency is desirous of purifying the modern taste in this direction, will he show a practical sympathy by inaugurating the policy of protection which will place worthless foreign articles at a disadvantage?

41. The *Bengalee*, writing again on the Delhi Arts Exhibition, regards it as characteristic of Lord Curzon's matchless organising ability, which made it an unqualified success commends the speech made by His Excellency on the occasion to the serious consideration of its countrymen. It, however, points out again that Indian Chiefs are, in the matter of extending their patronage, often the passive instruments of the Political Officers who are attached to their Courts. If Lord Curzon were to issue a circular prohibiting Political Officers from introducing European canvassers and commission agents to Ruling Chiefs, no European would be able to secure orders.

The journal concludes by asking His Excellency, as the leader of fashion in India, to do something for the resuscitation of the dying arts of India.

42. Comparing Lord Curzon's Darbar speech with Lord Lytton's, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that the latter's was more elevated in tone and more generous in spirit. Yet, it has no doubt that if Lord Curzon was so inclined, he might have soared higher. Lord Lytton spoke like an angel and, immediately after, gagged and disarmed the nation and permitted six millions of people to die of starvation.

The *Patrika* says the Indians who waited in eager expectation of some favour to come, as the result of the Coronation Darbar, will be disappointed to find it meant nothing to them. How is His Excellency's hint of a possible financial relief to be realized when additional military burdens are to be imposed upon India?

43. In the opinion of the *Indian Mirror* His Excellency certainly rose to the occasion in his peculiar way of making nothing appear everything for the time being. Lord Curzon's tribute to the faithful attachment and service of His Majesty's Indian people is regarded as a serviceable and timely acknowledgment in the face of the world of the position to which India is entitled in the British Imperial structure. It hopes that God will grant to India the realization of the vision of increasing prosperity, comfort, and wealth conjured up by His Excellency in such perfect, solemn, and fervid language.

44. The *Bengalee* had expected the pronouncement through the Viceroy of a more generous policy towards the people than had been pursued heretofore; the grant to the Indians of political rights and privileges which would have made them forget they were a subject race; the relief of the ever-increasing burden under which the impoverished people are daily groaning; but the Viceroy's speech has dissipated every hope, shattered every expectation. It does not contain a single promise, nor indicate a different line of policy to be pursued. The old picture has been only set in a new frame of gorgeous gilding and moulding. All that His Excellency has said are facts known very well to the princes and people of India for the last century. They would be better and inexpensively learnt by a sight of our law Courts, from individual British officials, and from Sir William Lee Warner's famous book. His Excellency at the great Darbar thought it proper to confine himself to a mere belauding of everybody all round, without committing his Government to anything like a shade of promise to the people.

45. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, while acknowledging the success of the Darbar, and awarding the fullest measure of praise to the Viceroy who conceived and carried out the idea, complains that there was one thing wanting in the ceremony, namely, life. It was a soulless affair, because the Indians could take no part in it, and because the Viceroy could make no announcement of some real reform which would have made the people rejoice.

46. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror*:—

Professor J. C. Bose, c. l. e. We wonder if that great scientist, Professor Jagadish Chander Bose, cares for the bauble just gifted to him by the Government of India as a memento of the Coronation

BENGALIEE,
6th Jan. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Jan. 1903.

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Jan. 1903.

BENGALIEE,
3rd Jan. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Jan. 1903.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th Jan. 1902.

of His Majesty the King Emperor. But we think that Professor Bose deserved something better than a C. I. E. A money or land-grant in his case would have been preferable. Scientists require both money and solitude for their experimental work. A jagir would, we conceive, have come more handy and useful to Professor Bose to help on his research work.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th Jan. 1903.

47. The *Hindoo Patriot* notices the complaints made against Mr. Ryland's management of the Bengal Chiefs' Camp at Delhi, and alleges that that officer recently grossly insulted and expelled a distinguished Muhammadan gentleman who holds a high office in one of the Calcutta Courts, who had gone to his camp to make certain enquiries. It contrasts his treatment with the sympathetic and successful administration by Mr. J. N. Gupta at the Press Camp.

INDIAN MIRROR,
1st Jan. 1903.

48. The *Indian Mirror's* special representative at the Delhi Darbar, whose comments on the function are being reproduced, thinks that the Viceroy could not have conceived a better plan for impressing the world with the vastness, wealth, and magnificence of the Indian Empire, but notwithstanding all this, he holds that the whole show is only a make-believe and intended to be a practical answer to Messrs. Naoroji, Dutt, Digby, and others who are drawing attention to the poverty of India.

One of the worst features of the Darbar, the representative says, is that, with the exception of a fortunate few, the Princes, Chiefs, and Nobles who have gone to Delhi have got deep into debt for the occasion, while not a few of the smaller fry have been obliged to attend under official pressure. While, therefore, it is sport for the Imperial Government, it has been death to others. The Nizam, for instance, has lost the Berars as an immediate and startling preliminary to the Darbar, and has added thereby to the debts which, it is supposed, induced him to give up the Berars. The Darbar is little better than a keeping up of appearances at a period of chronic distress due to plague and famine.

The representative next refers to the dislike of the Europeans earned by Lord Curzon as the outcome of his action with regard to the punishment of the 9th Lancers, and says:—

"The European indignation against Lord Curzon has become so great that it is openly bruited about that His Excellency received a few days ago a packet by registered post from a certain Indian station—European by certain tokens—containing three bottles with the ominous word '*Beware!*' glowing on the wrapper!"

INDIAN MIRROR
3rd Jan. 1903.

49. In its second article, continuing its representative's criticism of this function, the *Indian Mirror* says that the complaint among the guests invited to the different Provincial Camps is general that they are receiving little or no attention. The Madras Provincial Camp of the Indian guests is six miles from the His Excellency the Governor's Camp, which is contiguous to the quarters of the European guests. With the exception of the Central Provinces' Camp, all the other Indian guests are equally neglected, while as regards the Indian guests in the Bengal Camp, their lamentations are loud and deep. The representative says:—

"It was most unfortunate that a Police officer was placed in charge of the Bengal Camp. *He is totally unfit for his work.* He pays no attention to the wants of the guests, and cares very little for them. He looks more after himself than the guests in his charge, and spends his time chiefly in polo and other amusements. The Government, in appointing Mr. Ryland to his present office, made the worse possible selection. And the guests are 'paying guests,' Government only giving them plots of land to pitch their tents on, they paying their own expenses!"

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Jan. 1903.

50. The third of the series of letters from the *Indian Mirror's* representative at the Delhi Darbar asserts that the Darbar has proved a source of great heartburning and dissatisfaction among all classes of the Indian people. The Chiefs complain that they have been accommodated on sites which required no little side expense to render fit for their camps, while some of them were obliged to take their

staffs of engineers with them to lay out their residences to suit their rank and comfort. Other chiefs of lesser note were brought to a dead level with the common herd both at the procession and the opening of the Arts Exhibition. As for the people, those who are contemptuously called 'natives,' they are humiliated in a marked degree. At the Arts Exhibition no seating accommodation was provided for them, and on the light railways on the same occasion they were treated as cattle by the soldier ticket-collectors and guards. Everywhere the invidious racial distinction is being felt and resented. The natives of Delhi, such as carters, *ekka-wallas*, and coolies are, it is also alleged, treated with the greatest cruelty by the police.

51. Commenting upon the Viceroy's reply to the address of the Native Press at the Delhi Darbar, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says:—

The Viceroy and the Native Press at Delhi.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Jan. 1903.

"Our good Viceroy has no desire to pose as a figure-head and remain in the background as most of his predecessors chose to do. His Excellency is willing to talk and to be talked to, to love and to be loved. In the Indians he will always find exceedingly social beings, who have a heart to love and appreciate goodness, but not to entertain malice or any feelings of revenge."

His Excellency's message that the Indians should regard the Coronation Darbar with as much solemnity as he did, suggests, says the *Patrika*, that the ceremony has a weak point, and that his Lordship is aware of it. Precisely the same anxiety filled the *Patrika* and led it to repeatedly suggest that the sacred ceremony should not be converted into a *tamasha*. "Yes," says the journal, in conclusion, "we intend treating the ceremony with solemnity, but not now. Let His Excellency come to Calcutta and then we hope to have some plain speaking on the subject, and submit the remonstrance, if we have any."

52. The *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that the movement for securing certain privileges, contemplated by the Indian Press representatives at Delhi, should have been started earlier, and a great deal of practical good might have been done if the opportunity had been seized when the Viceroy visited the Press Camp to approach His Excellency in the matter.

The Indian Press and its privileges.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th Jan. 1903.

53. The *Indian Empire* reverts to the Malkowal inoculation accident and does not agree with the *Pioneer* that it is the confidence of the people in the Government which has made them take the mishap so quietly. The

The Malkowal inoculation accident.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
23rd Dec. 1902.

people of India are long-suffering, and not given to violent demonstration even when violently agitated, but none the less they have not much confidence in the administration of the land by aliens who know little of their language, customs, and feelings.

The *Empire*, however, joins the *Pioneer* in its demand for a detailed enquiry into the accident itself and who was responsible for the poisonous phial.

54. The *Indian Mirror* says that, with the appointment of Mr. Fraser as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Lord Curzon has really in serious view an appreciable redistribution of Local Government territories and authorities, such as the *Pioneer* has hinted.

The redistribution of Governments.

INDIAN MIRROR,
30th Dec. 1902.

55. The *Bengalee* refers to the case related by the *Lahore Tribune*, in which a man, with his wife and two children, was compelled by the Cantonment Magistrate and Civil

BENGALIEE,
30th Dec. 1902.

An intemperate sanitary zeal.

Surgeon of Jullundur to leave his house, in which a fatal case of plague had occurred, although he pleaded for time on the ground that his wife was nearing her accouchement. The woman, it is alleged, upon arriving at the segregation camp, took bad, and was permitted to be removed to other quarters, where she gave birth to a child, who died on the second day, she following her child soon after.

"Sanitary measures are good in their own way, but their application in a country like India with all their rigour cannot be too highly condemned. Here is a lady, in the most delicate health, who was made to suffer mental anxieties which brought about an untimely, and, we may say, cruel death. Such a thing occurring in any of the Western countries would have created

the greatest scandal and roused the popular indignation to its highest pitch and brought the highest in the land to disgrace. But here, in India, the officials have all their own way, and there is apparently no power to check their erring and misguided hands."

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
27th Dec. 1902.

56. The following comments on the treaty concluded between the British Government and the Nizam of Hyderabad, regarding the Berars, are extracted from the *Moslem Chronicle* :—

The Berars.

"The bluff from the Government of India to the public will not do. That Government have ever been casting gloating and wistful eyes on the Berars, and they have got it. Whatever may be the expressions of opinions from all quarters, the fact remains that posterity will view this transaction in other lights than those in which the Government of India seem to do, and that it shall ever remain as a great and ineffaceable blot on the pro-consulate of Lord Curzon."

VI—MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
23rd Dec. 1902.

57. The *Indian Empire* cannot congratulate the Indian National Congress on the achievements it has made during the 18 years of its existence or on the turn the movement

The Congress.

has lately taken which has alienated from it the Punjab, the United Provinces, and possibly Bengal. It blames the leaders for the present state of feeling, and hopes that the Ahmedabad Sessions will restore the lost confidence in the leaders.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
30th Dec. 1902.

58. The following is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot* :—

Coronation mortgages.

"A short time before people left for Delhi our lawyers were engaged in a series of monologous transactions known in legal circles as Coronation mortgages and Coronation pledges. The Registration Department records may not furnish any data, but the fact is well known that many an impecunious guest and non-guest who thought that their glories would be enhanced by a visit to Delhi in whatever capacity not only spent their last pice in equipment and expenses but heavily mortgaged their already over-encumbered patrimony to find the sinews of war. If people will be foolish of course Government cannot help it. But as one of these misguided beings pitifully observed to another having less lands but better light, "Brother you know not zamindari woes," that is why we say the zamindari costs will never be fully counted up. And of course not of the Princes. When Lord Curzon fixed his preliminary Darbar budget at 26 lakhs and a half in his speech of vindication, His Excellency could not possibly have taken all this into account. Nor had he in his mind's eye the "Revised Government budget."

59. The following is taken from the *Bengalee* :—

BENGALER,
1st Jan. 1903.

The old year and the new.

The old year has done little for us in India. The condition of the people has undergone no change, no modification for the better. It was but a repetition of former years—a repetition of vain striving—of equally vain hopes, of equally keen disappointments. We as a nation have hybernated through it, much as we had hybernated through the other years in the past. But the present year opens with a grand *tamasha*. And amidst the historic memories of dead Empires will pace in solemn and imposing procession the marshalled powers of a new Empire throbbing with a warm and an active life. This will be the opening scene of the New Year. But behind all this magnificence are peeping the intense poverty, the deep misery, and the infinite degradation of a starving people.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 10th January 1903.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.